

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A vacuum connector located in the same room as ~~proximate~~ the point of use of a vacuum tool and adapted to be connected to a vacuum source, the vacuum connector comprising:

an inlet;

an outlet;

a separation chamber in communication with the inlet;

a baffle operably mounted in said chamber to cooperate with the inlet for optimizing the separation of liquid and gaseous material;

an air pathway in communication with the separation chamber and the outlet; ~~and~~

a fluid pathway separate from the air pathway, and in communication with the separation chamber and the outlet; and

a measuring device operably coupled to the fluid pathway.

2. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 1, ~~and further comprising~~ wherein the measuring device comprises a flow indicator ~~coupled to the fluid pathway.~~

3. (Original) The connector of claim 1, and further comprising a bioaerosol inlet separate from the inlet, and in communication with the outlet.

4. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 1, ~~and further comprising~~ wherein the measuring device comprises a volumetric indicator ~~coupled to the fluid pathway.~~

5. (Original) The connector of claim 1, and further comprising a decontamination unit in cooperation with the outlet.

6. (Original) The connector of claim 1, and further comprising a collection chamber in communication with the separation chamber.

7. (Original) The connector of claim 1, and further comprising a vacuum regulator in cooperation with the inlet.
8. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 1, ~~and further comprising~~ wherein the measuring device comprises a flowmeter coupled to the fluid pathway, and the connector further comprises a microprocessor in communication with the flowmeter and capable of calculating flow rates and total volume.
9. (Original) The connector of claim 1, and further comprising an end effector in communication with the inlet.
10. (Original) The connector of claim 1, and further comprising a vacuum source in communication with the outlet.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Original) The connector of claim 1, wherein the separation chamber includes a filter in cooperation with the inlet for optimizing the separation of solid materials.
13. (Currently Amended) A vacuum system comprising:  
a vacuum source;  
a connector located in the same room as ~~proximate~~ the point of use of a vacuum tool and in communication with the vacuum source and comprising of an inlet, an outlet, a separation chamber in communication with the inlet and further including a baffle, an air pathway in communication with the separation chamber and the outlet, and a fluid pathway separate from the air pathway and in communication with the separation chamber and the outlet, a measuring tool operably coupled to the fluid pathway; and  
an end effector in communication with the inlet.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, ~~and further comprising~~ wherein the tool comprises a flowmeter coupled to the fluid pathway, and the system further comprises a microprocessor in communication with the flowmeter and capable of calculating flow rates and total volume.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, and further comprising an input device in communication with the microprocessor.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the input device includes a key pad.

17. (Original) The system of claim 13, and further comprising a decontamination unit in cooperation with the outlet, the contamination unit including a collapsible container containing a pre-measured amount of decontaminant.

18. (Original) The system of claim of claim 13, wherein the vacuum source includes a centrifugal separator.